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# EG&G ROCKY FLATS

EG&G ROCKY FLATS, INC.  
ROCKY FLATS PLANT, P.O. BOX 464, GOLDEN, COLORADO 80402-0464 • (303) 966-7000

February 27, 1992

92-RF-2053

Robert M. Nelson, Jr.  
Manager  
DOE, RFO

Attn: P. M. Powell

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) ACTION DESCRIPTION MEMORANDUM  
(ADM) (SHARPTAILED GROUSE TRANSPLANT) - JEE-0150-92

Enclosed is a copy of a NEPA ADM for the Rocky Flats Plant. The NEPA Compliance Committee along with the Ecology and NEPA Division, have recommended an Action Description Memorandum (ADM) be prepared for the project listed below. Also enclosed is a diskette with the information for your convenience.

EC7792

Sharptailed Grouse Transplant

Please provide a NEPA determination for this project. Contact Steve Nesta, Ecology and NEPA Division, on 273-6076 or Kathy London, Ecology and NEPA/Environmental Documentation, on 273-6189, if further information is needed.

*J. E. Evered*  
J. E. Evered, Director  
Environmental Management

APM:bmb

Orig. and 1 cc - R. M. Nelson, Jr.

Enclosures:  
As Stated (2)

## CLASSIFICATION:

UCNI	XX	X	X
UNCLASSIFIED	X	X	X
CONFIDENTIAL			
SECRET			

## AUTHORIZED CLASSIFIER

SIGNATURE  
*P. M. Powell*  
2/26/92  
DATE

IN REPLY TO LTR NO.

PC#  
LTR APPROVALS:  
SMN  
JEE  
ORIG & TYPIST INITIALS  
APM bmb

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION  
REVIEW WAIVER PER  
CLASSIFICATION OFFICE

ADMIN RECORD

A-SW-001804

ACTION DESCRIPTION MEMORANDUM  
FOR  
SHARPTAILED GROUSE TRANSPLANT, ROCKY FLATS PLANT

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Action Description Memorandum is to provide sufficient information to permit a reasonable determination of the level of NEPA documentation required in compliance with DOE Orders 5440.1D, "Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)."

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is for the transplant of plains sharptailed grouse at the Rocky Flats Plant (RFP). The action would take place in the Rock Creek drainage area, in the northwest corner of the RFP buffer zone, and would be performed at the request of and by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

NEED FOR THE ACTION

The plains sharptailed grouse was historically widely distributed along the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains from Larimer County south to El Paso County. The grouse population became greatly restricted due to overgrazing, fire control, agricultural development, and more recently, urbanization. Presently, there are less than 200 birds of this species resident within Colorado. The plains sharptailed grouse was classified as a state endangered species in 1976. The Colorado Division of Wildlife's goal is to eventually increase the Colorado resident population enough to delist the species from endangered status to a special concern status. To achieve this goal, aggressive management of habitats for the existing population and reintroduction into suitable habitats are necessary.

LOCATION OF THE ACTION

The Rocky Flats Plant is located in northern Jefferson County, approximately 16 miles northwest of Denver, Colorado. The proposed action is located in the northwest corner of the Rocky Flats Plant buffer zone in and around the Rock Creek Drainage area.

CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Colorado Division of Wildlife has identified several areas in Colorado where plains sharptailed grouse might be able to survive if reintroduced. One of these areas is the northwest portion of the Rocky Flats Plant and adjacent areas of Boulder County Open Space. Although the Division of Wildlife plans to eventually release some sharptailed grouse on the Open Space, these park lands are unsuitable at present because livestock grazing is still occurring there. Vegetation surveys conducted at RFP in 1990 indicated that the vegetation on Rocky Flats was similar to that in occupied sharptailed grouse range in Douglas County, and that the RFP lands were in better condition than adjacent Open Space lands in many locations, because there has been no grazing for a period of years at RFP.

Forty to fifty birds would be trapped in southeastern Wyoming for release at RFP. The releases would occur for two consecutive years in the early spring. Once released, the birds would need to be monitored regularly to determine if they become established. This monitoring would involve fitting 12 birds each year with radio transmitters, with subsequent tracking and observation. The Department of Energy would provide access to the buffer zone for frequent routine monitoring of the birds by Colorado Division of Wildlife employees. The Colorado Division of Wildlife would relocate the birds back to the Rock Creek drainage area should the grouse take up residence in plant areas that conflict with plant operation.

#### POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The possibility of the spread of RFP contaminants off site by the birds is negligible. Ongoing studies conducted by Colorado State University have shown that the spread of contaminants through the food chain is nonexistent at the Rocky Flats Plant, and the grouse would be expected to fit the existing ecology.

It is possible that having a state listed species on plant site may hinder present and future activities desired by the DOE. DOE must negotiate an agreement with the State of Colorado to outline the liabilities and culpability derived from transplanting the grouse to the plant site.

#### FUNDING

The Sharptailed Grouse reintroduction program would be directed and funded by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The Department of Energy would provide plant assistance to support Division of Wildlife access and coordination.

U.S. Department of Energy

Rocky Flats Plant

Rocky Flats Plant boundary

Ponds/Lakes

Buildings or structures

Scale 0 1000 2000 Feet

Prepared by:

EG&G ROCKY FLATS

Rocky Flats Plant

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